

Truth Matters: Toward Enduring ...

In late 2014 we released a stirring article encouraging our Family in Jesus Christ to honor God by honoring His explicit Word over popular religious traditions [enclosed – next page]. Here was one of four examples we cited as a case in point (of some of the traditions in churches today):

4. *You [may] have heard it said, "Relationship is EVERYTHING!"* but God's Word actually teaches to the contrary. "How so?" one might ask. While God values relationship to the extent He sent His only Son to atone for the sins of all, not all are saved! There is something preeminent to "relationship" and that is simply the transcendent Being of God. IF "Relationship is EVERYTHING," God would save all. Fact is, while He has provided the means for all to be saved, not all have *Life*. Actually, our Lord Jesus says most will not accept restored relationship with God through Christ and, as a result, will live their eternal state in separation from God in the Lake of Fire. RELATIONSHIP, while HUGE, is NOT EVERYTHING. **This popular half-truth** (i.e., "Relationship is everything!") **is also leading many to compromise eternally significant Truths God has graciously given.** God is faithful to His Word. What He says will come to pass.

Some have asked **how** this fourth half-truth leads to compromise to eternally significant degrees. In answer, here's one true story ...

A Washington attorney friend of mine contacted me sharing his shock over a 14-month experience he had just gone through. He mentioned his pastor started preaching messages which, in subtle ways, taught the god of Islam is also the God of Abraham and the Bible. After a few sermons toward this end, my friend asked to meet with the pastor. They discussed Mike's concern over a period of a few months. After much appeal from Mike's end, the pastor was insistent his messages from the pulpit were honoring to god and that he would not budge regarding his view – a faulty and most dangerous (that is, *antichrist*) one, in light of biblical Truth. Mike finally had to take his family and leave the church.

One major reason which prompted this pastor's view was that he wanted to avoid offending his Muslim neighbors. Never mind offending our jealous (and rightly so!) God. This pastor – because **relationship was everything** to him – felt it was god-honoring to compromise the basic doctrine of the Triune God in order to placate the Muslims. WOW!

NO my friends. There are lines we cannot cross for the sake of relationship with the lost. I commend my Brother Mike for the difficult decision he felt he had to make, for his relationship with God was on the line.

There are other true stories (similar to this) which I could tell, stories illustrating the imbalance of placing relationship with others so high it damages relationship with God.

My friends and Family in Christ, we must balance the full Counsel of God by staying true to the whole. We must be willing to draw the line as to concessions we're NOT willing to make, for to do so would be to join the ranks of the growing apostasy movement currently underway. Please note the pertinent details of the passages below.

"Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if

from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do* so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
(II Thes. 2:1-12 ; NKJV)

“Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.” (Mt. 24:9-14 ; NASB)

Please add to the passages above the reading of our Lord’s words to His churches in Revelation 2 & 3. We don’t want our Lord to tell us on the day of accounting that we failed to heed His warnings concerning the things *He has against us*. (Rev. 2:4) Instead, we want to hear Him say to us: “Well done My good and faithful steward. Enter in!” We desire to be overcomers who resist falling away, for the ones who endure to the end will be saved (Mt. 24:13).

A prayer in closing:

Thank You, Father God, for the Way, the Truth and the Life. Thank You for clearly informing us in Your Word that You are a jealous God Who shares Your glory with no one – and again, rightly so! Help us, dear Lord, I pray, to hold fast! Grace us with patient endurance, please. Thank You for the strong Counsel to us, Your end-time Saints in Christ Jesus Your beloved Son. Yes, thank You for the precious Counsel of Your Word. As we study and enjoy devotional time therein, please further conform us to the image of Your dear Son, for in Him You were well pleased. Help us follow in the footsteps of Your holy Son whereby we act in a manner of the adoption of sons. Unto Your glory and praise; In Jesus Christ’s name, I pray. Amen

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